

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 075865

51

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 FILE-01 /012 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: AF/ N: WCLARK

APPROVED BY: AF/ N - MR CLARK

NEA - MR RAPHEL

NEA/ EGY - MR STERNER

S/ S- O: KAKURZE

EUR/ WE - MR MAGEE

----- 003783

R 211850 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 075865

EXDIS TODEP 139

TEHRAN ACKNOWLEDGE FOR TODEP

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, LY, FR, EG

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DIA USDAO ATHENS USDAO ROME USDAO LONDON

USDAO TUNIS USDAO VALLETTA INFO COMNAVINTCOM WASHDC USCINCEUR

CIA 7602 AIRINTELGP FT BELVOIR

USDAO TEL AVIV USDAO ISLAMABAD SECSTATE FROM USDAO PARIS

APR 20

QUOTE

S E C R E T NOFORN SNFD-4043- AF APR 73. - EXDIS-

E. O. 11652: XGDS

DIA FOR DI-5 A2.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 075865

SUBJECT: LIBYAN MIRAGE AIRCRAFT IN EGYPT.

REF DC-4 A2 MSG 6161 DTG 191808 Z APR 73. CITE D-5 A2-30478.

AND EMBASSY PARIS MSG EXDIS SECRET (NOTAL) 10430 DTG 19 APR 73.

1. SOURCE IS A WELL PLACED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE MEMBER OF THE FRENCH MILITARY.
 2. SOURCE STATES THAT 20 LIBYAN MIRAGES WERE TRANSFERRED FROM ADEM (TOBRUK) AIR BASE TO EGYPT. HE STATES THAT 18 MIRAGE 5'S AND TWO MIRAGE IIIR'S HAVE LEFT LIBYA AND ARE LOCATED AT AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRFIELD NEAR THE NILE. SOURCE SAID THAT THE 20 MIRAGES REPRESENT THE NORMAL LIBYAN SQUADRON STRENGTH AND MIX. THE MAJORITY, IF NOT ALL OF THE MIRAGES, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, WERE FLOWN TO EGYPT BY EGYPTIAN PILOTS. HE ALSO STATED THAT MOST EGYPTIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE LEFT LIBYA INCLUDING PILOTS AND TECHNICIANS WHO HAD BEEN ASSISTING IN MAINTAINING THE LIBYAN AIRCRAFT. SOURCE STATED THAT NONE OF THE MIRAGES WHICH WERE FLOWN TO EGYPT HAD BEEN MAINTAINED BY THE FRENCH TECHNICIANS IN LIBYA. HE SAID THAT THIS PARTICULAR SQUADRON APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED BY EGYPTIAN TECHNICIANS. HE ALSO ADDED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE OF PAKISTANI PERSONNEL ON THE FORMER WHEELUS AIR BASE.
 3. SOURCE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT MATRA 530 R AIR TO AIR MISSILES HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THE LIBYAN AF AS PART OF THE OVERALL PACKAGE CONTRACT INVOLVING THE ARMAMENTS SALE BY THE FRENCH GOVT. SOURCE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE NUMBERS OF MISSILES INVOLVED. HE DID REITERATE WHAT HE HAS SAID IN THE PAST CONCERNING THE INEPTITUDE OF THE LIBYAN PILOTS ADDING THAT THE MATRA 530 REQUIRED PILOT SKILL AND FIRST CLASS MAINTENANCE. IN ADDITION, TO BE EFFECTIVE, THE ELECTRICAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT, HE SAID, MUST BE NEAR PERFECT AND REQUIRE HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL GROUND CONTROL ASSISTANCE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION A LIBYAN HIT WOULD BE THE RESULT OF LUCK RATHER THAN PROFESSIONALISM.
 4. ANOTHER WELL PLACED FRENCH AIR FORCE OFFICER STATED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IN THE FRENCH GOVT OVER THE AIR, RAIL AND MARITIME ACTIVITY BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION- ALGERIA- EGYPT- LIBYA AND MOROCCO. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THERE HAS BEEN A NOTABLE INCREASE IN SOVIET BERTHING AT THE PORT OF ORAN, IN ALGERIA, AND SUBSEQUENT RAIL MOVEMENT BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO. THERE HAS BEEN A SIMILAR INCREASE, HE SAID, IN AIR TRAFFIC BETWEEN EGYPT- LIBYA- ALGERIA AND MOROCCO. HIS IMPRESSION IS THAT MANY OF THE AN 12 FLIGHTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA WERE DIVERTED TO MOROCCO AND SOME WERE MADE TO ALGERIA. HE ACKNOWLEDGES KNOWING
- SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 075865

OF THE 35 SOVIET OFFICERS NOW IN MOROCCO AND STATES HE EXPECTS AN EVEN GREATER INCREASE IN THIS NUMBER.

COMMENT: WHEN I TALKED TO THE FIRST SOURCE AT ABOUT 1 500 TODAY, HE TOLD ME HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT THE LIBYAN MIRAGES HAD BEEN MOVED TO TOBRUK. HE CALLED AT 1745 TO ADVISE THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED THE INFORMATION THAT THE MIRAGES WERE NOW IN EGYPT. I AM CONVINCED THAT BOTH SOURCES WERE REPORTING WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION, SINCE BOTH ASKED IF THE 6 TH FLEET WAS IN POSITION AND EQUIPPED TO MONITOR ANY EAST- WEST OR WESTWARD MOVEMENT OF AIRCRAFT ON EITHER SIDE OF SUEZ. BOTH SOURCES ARE NOW SATISFIED THAT THE AN 12 MOVEMENTS EARLIER IN THE MONTH INVOLVED PRE- POSITIONING OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE MIRAGES.

THE SECOND SOURCE STATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS INDICATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE LIBYAN MIRAGES AND HAS REQUESTED THAT HE BE KEPT INFORMED OF MIDDLE EAST ACTIVITIES ON A PRIORITY BASIS.

IF THE ADDED MOVEMENTS DISCUSSED BY SOURCES ARE CONFIRMED, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT RELATIONS WITH THE U. S. TO BOLSTER THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS MSG COORDINATED (IN SUBSTANCE) WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION. XGDS
UNQUOTE PORTER

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpeggh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE075865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/ N: WCLARK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730449/aaaaiuxl.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpeggh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <14-Nov-2001 by thigpeggh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980128
Subject: LIBYAN MIRAGE AIRCRAFT IN EGYPT
TAGS: MASS, EG, FR, LY
To: ALGIERS
CAIRO
RABAT
TEHRAN
TRIPOLI
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005